



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 5, 2014

**Governor Signs Emergency Proclamation in Anticipation
of Lava Flow Crossing Highway 130**

HONOLULU – Gov. Neil Abercrombie today signed an emergency proclamation in preparation for the June 27 lava flow crossing Highway 130 near Pahoa, potentially isolating communities in lower Puna from the rest of Hawaii County.

The proclamation suspends certain laws as needed for emergency purposes, including state restrictions on reestablishing abandoned roads that may be used should lava cross Highway 130. It also activates the Major Disaster Fund set aside by the state Legislature for disaster relief and facilitates access to emergency resources at the state and federal levels.

“State agencies are working with the County of Hawaii to provide alternative access to lower Puna if lava crosses the main highway,” said Gov. Abercrombie. “This proclamation will ensure that isolated communities receive a continuation of services.

“Health officials are also advising all residents living near the lava flow to plan ahead for potential smoke from burning vegetation and low levels of sulfur dioxide. Conditions for nearby communities may vary widely due to the unpredictability of wind and weather.”

The disaster emergency relief period specified in the proclamation begins today and continues through Oct. 15, 2014.

Residents are also encouraged to enroll in local notification systems and monitor local radio and television broadcasts.

#

Media Contacts:

Keith DeMello
Deputy Director of Communications
Office of the Governor
(808) 594-3645
keith.demello@hawaii.gov
governor.hawaii.gov

Shelly Kunishige
Public Information Officer
Hawaii Emergency Management Agency
(808) 733-4300 or (808) 620-5408
askcivildefense@scd.hawaii.gov
scd.hawaii.gov